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UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

SPRING 2012

POL 201

William Mishler

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American National Government

Office: Social Science 314a

Hrs: T-W-Th 10-12

& by appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistants

Rebecca Kopp (rlkopp@email.arizona.edu)

Megan Hauser (hauser@email.arizona.edu)

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Office Hours & Locations

TH 1:30-3:30 Rm 134 Social Sciences

M-W 2-3 & TU 1-2 Rm 134 Soc Sci

W 1-2:30 Rm 134 Soc Sci

DESCRIPTION: This course provides a general introduction to the basic political institutions and processes of American government. It focuses primarily on national politics and is concerned, in particular, with evaluating the structure of political power and the nature, extent, and quality of citizen participation in political life. Two questions are central throughout: Who governs America, and who should?

REQUIREMENTS, GRADES AND DATES: Three examinations are required as is a 6-8 page essay. The following are the weights for each assignment and the date that each is due.

| <u>Requirement</u> | <u>Dates (Tentative & Subject to Change)</u> | <u>Grade Percentage</u> |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Exam I | February 20th | 25% |
| Exam II | March 26th | 25% |
| Exam III | May 9 th (1-3 pm) | 25% |
| Essay | March 5th - optional first draft | (10%) |
| | April 16 nd - required final draft | (15%) 25% (total) |

ESSAY: All students are required to write a 6-8 page essay on a topic to be assigned. The essay will call on you to analyze a significant issue or problem in American Government using at least **five primary sources no more than two of which may be from on-line sources (Sources such as the NY Time which are available both on and off line are perfectly fine to use). You may NOT use Wikipedia as a source nor course textbooks or class lectures.** The paper is worth 25% of the final grade. Students have the option of writing a draft of the paper, receiving written feedback on it, and then rewriting it for a final grade. If you choose to do this, the first draft is worth 10% of the total grade and the final draft is worth 15% more. Papers will be evaluated on both style and substance and returned within two weeks of their submission. Students who choose the rewrite option will then have one additional week to revise and resubmit the essay for a final grade. Papers submitted after Nov 22nd will be marked down one letter grade for each class period the paper is late.

MAKE UP EXAMS: Make-Up exams are not be given under ANY circumstances. Students who miss an exam **with a satisfactory excuse** will be excused from that exam. The course grade will be computed as the average of the other assignments. **A student who misses a second exam for any reason or who misses one exam and fails to submit a final paper will be dropped administratively from the course.**

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with University rules and regulations. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with University regulations regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. If you have any doubt as to what is expected in these regards, please ask or consulting the University Code of Academic Integrity at <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity> .

POLICY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES: All electronic devices (cell phones, MP3s, laptop computers – except for taking notes) must be turned off during class unless you have received prior permission from the instructor. Any such device which is used in class will be subject to confiscation and returned to the student during afternoon office hours. Anyone using **ANY** electronic device without prior permission during an examination will receive a zero on that exam.

BOOKS AND READINGS: All assigned readings in the course are from three books which can be purchased through the ASUA bookstore. You also may be able to save some money by ordering the books online through www.amazon.com or other electronic bookstore. Used copies of all books should be available for significantly reduced prices.

1. James Q Wilson and John J DiIulio, *American Government (Dolphin Edition)* Houghton Mifflin ISBN 0-618-57682-7
2. Robert Dahl, *How Democratic is the American Constitution?* (2nd Edition), Yale University Press, ISBN: 0 300 09524 4
3. William Hudson, *American Democracy in Peril*, CQ Press, ISBN 1 933 116 730

In addition, students are required to read the *POLITICAL NEWS in the New York Times or Washington Post every day.* The New York Times can be found free on-line at: <http://nyt.com/>. The Washington Post can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>. You should regularly read the articles in the sections labeled US and POLITICS.

COURSE OUTLINE: Readings for each topic are listed below. Approximately one topic will be covered every two weeks, although this will vary with the length of the readings and the level of class interest. REQUIRED readings for each topic is very modest; therefore students are expected to do all of the reading for a topic before that topic is discussed in class. OPTIONAL readings are listed as a guide to students who want to pursue a subject in greater depth; they are **not** required. All dates in the Course Outline are tentative; the instructor will keep students informed as to when to proceed to the next topic.

TOPIC I: Theories of the American Political System: Classical Democracy, Democratic Elitism, and Ruling Elitism (Jan 11, 18, 23, 25)

Required:

1. Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 1.
2. Hudson, Introduction

Optional:

1. John Stuart Mill, Considerations on Representative Government.
2. J. Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy.
3. R. Dahl, Preface to Democratic Theory.
4. P. Bachrach, Theory of Democratic Elitism.
5. G. W. Domhoff, Who Rules America?
6. R. A. Dahl, Democracy and its Critics
7. M. Harrington, Why We Need Socialism in America?
8. D. Truman, The Governmental Process.

NO CLASS: Monday January 16 –MLK Birthday

TOPIC II: The Constitution and Traditions of American Politics (Jan 25, 30, Feb 1, 6)

Required:

1. Wilson and DiIulio, Chs. 2, 3, 5, 6.
2. Hudson, Ch. 1
3. Dahl, Chs. 1-3 and Appendix A.
4. Also read Articles of Confederation (<http://www.usconstitution.net/articles.html>)
Declaration of Independence (<http://www.usconstitution.net/declar.html>)
and U.S. Constitution (<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.txt>)

Optional:

1. J. W. Peltason, Understanding the Constitution.
2. A. de Tocqueville, Democracy in America.
3. S. M. Lipset, First New Nation.
4. L. Hartz, The Liberal Tradition in America.
5. Charles Beard, An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution.

TOPIC III: Democratic Citizenship: Public Opinion and Participation (Feb 6, 8, 13, 15)

Required:

1. Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 4, 7 & 8
2. Hudson, Chs. 3, 4 and 7

Optional:

1. S. Verba and N. Nie, Participation in America.
2. W. Kornhauser, The Politics of Mass Society.
3. R. Lane, Political Ideology.
4. Eric Fromm, Escape from Freedom.
5. Dennis Thompson, The Democratic Citizen.

FIRST EXAM: Mon Feb 20th (Tentative)

TOPIC IV: Elections (Feb 22, 27, 29, Mar. 5)

Required:

1. Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 10 & 12
2. Hudson, Ch. 5
3. Dahl, Ch. 4

Optional:

1. Angus Campbell, The American Voter: An Abridgement.
2. Gerald Pomper, Elections in America.
3. V.O. Key, The Responsible Electorate.
4. N. Nie, et.al., The Changing American Voter.

March 5th - First Draft of Paper due (Optional)

TOPIC V: Political Parties and Interest Groups (Mar 5, 7, 19, 21)

Required:

1. Wilson and DiIulio, Ch 9, 11,
2. Hudson, Ch. 6.

Optional:

1. W. Crotty, American Parties in Decline.
2. A. Ranney, Curing the Mischiefs of Faction.
3. J. L. Sundquist, Dynamics of the Party System.
4. E. E. Schattschneider, The Semisovereign People.
5. J. Q. Wilson, Political Organizations.
6. M. Olson, The Logic of Collective Action.

March 10-18

SPRING BREAK

SECOND EXAM: Mon Mar 26th (Tentative)

TOPIC VI: Congress: Representation and Responsiveness (Mar 28, April 2, 4, 9)

Required:

1. Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 13

Optional:

1. Eric Redman, The Dance of Legislation.
2. Mark Green, Who Runs Congress?
3. M. Fiorina, Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment.
4. R. Fenno, Home Style.
5. D. Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection

TOPIC VII: The Presidency & Bureaucracy (Apr 9, 11, 16, 18)

Required:

1. Wilson and DiIulio, Chs.14 & 15
2. Hudson, Ch. 8

Optional:

1. R. Neustadt, Presidential Power.
2. J. D. Barber, Presidential Character.
3. C. Rossiter, The American Presidency.
4. C. Jones, The Reagan Legacy

April 16th - Final Draft of Paper due (Required)

TOPIC VIII: The Courts and the Legal System (Apr 18, 23, 25, 30)

Required:

1. Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 16 & 5.
2. Hudson, Ch 2.

Optional:

1. A. Lewis, Gideon's Trumpet.
2. J. Frank, Courts on Trial.
3. W. Murphy, Elements of Judicial Strategy.
4. H. Jacob, Justice in America.

TOPIC IX: American Democracy Revisited (Apr 30, May 2)

Required:

1. Dahl, Chs. 5-7

THIRD EXAM: Wed May 9th 1-3 PM

Note the different Time for Last Exam!!!!